

House Resolution No. 998

Whereas, it is with special pleasure that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause to acknowledge the life and lifetime achievements of one of the Show-Me State's most beloved senior citizens; and

Whereas, Erna Mae Parker Harper, a treasured resident of Fulton, Missouri, commemorated the resplendent occasion of her One Hundred Third Birthday on March 4, 2004; and

Whereas, Erna Mae Parker came into this world in Fulton on March 4, 1901, and was raised by her three special aunts, Zula Young and Stella Shanks of Fulton, and another aunt in Kansas City; and

Whereas, Erna attended both Fulton and Kansas City public schools and went on to enjoy employment opportunities as a census taker in Kansas City, where she met some of the early jazz and blues artists, including Bill Basie before he became known as "Count", and members of the Bennie Moten Orchestra; and

Whereas, Erna embarked upon a new and exciting chapter in her life in 1923, when she married her beloved George Harper, a kind and loving gentleman who enjoyed every moment of her company until his passing from this world in 1949; and

Whereas, a talented musician who taught herself to play the piano when she was twelve years old, Erna Harper was the lead pianist at Calvary Baptist Church in Fulton for seventy-five years, and played for the Morningstar Choir and the Calvary Men's Chorus for many years; and

Whereas, now one hundred three years young, Erna Harper faces the beginning of each day with renewed hope and happiness and continues to lead a good Christian life, sharing her experiences and exciting stories of times gone by with her next door neighbor of forty-four years, Rudolph Sanderson:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join in extending our most hearty congratulations to Erna Harper as she proudly celebrates one hundred three years of achievement, and in wishing her much peace and contentment as she continues her journey along life's path; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Erna Mae Parker Harper, as a mark of our esteem for her.

Offered by _____
Representative Danie Moore
District No. 20

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 998, adopted March 10, 2004.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker